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Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Forty-fifth session
Geneva, 23 June–2 July 2014
Item 5 (e) of the provisional agenda
Electric storage systems: miscellaneous

Transport of prototype lithium cells and batteries

Transmitted by the expert from France[1]

1. In the discussions held during the March session of the RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meeting regarding batteries in vehicles assigned to UN Nos. 3166 and 3171, it was brought to the attention of the expert from France that certain provisions for the transport of prototype lithium cells and batteries could be improved.

2. The Sub-Committee recently adopted generally applicable packing instructions for batteries whose conformity with a tested type is no longer ensured. This is also a characteristic of prototypes, which, by definition, have not been tested. The question arises whether that packing instruction would be better suited to the transport of prototypes than the packing rules of the existing Special Provision 310.

3. Cases involving large prototypes are becoming increasingly common, and Special Provision 310 is often inapplicable to them. Specific provisions should perhaps be adopted for those prototypes.

4. Given the ongoing development of electric vehicles, it is also necessary to transport prototype batteries in prototype vehicles. This does not appear to be adequately covered by the provisions applicable to UN Nos. 3166 and 3171. Better adapted provisions would serve to clarify the situation.

[1] In accordance with the programme of work of the Sub-Committee for 2013–2014 approved by the Committee at its sixth session (refer to ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/84, para. 86 and ST/SG/AC.10/40, para. 14).

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5. The Sub-Committee is invited to give its opinion on these three matters and, on that basis, if considered appropriate, the expert from France offers to produce the corresponding draft amendments. These issues could perhaps be submitted to the working group on the testing of batteries, at the meeting scheduled for October 2014.